(b) Estimates of employment and unemployment in India are obtained through National Sample Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation. As per these surveys, unemployment rate on usual status basis has marginally gone up from 1.90% in 1993-94 to 2.23% in 1999-2000. Persons living below the poverty line have declined from around 36% in 1993-94 to 26% in 1999-2000.

Employees working in I.T. Sector

968. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation have been received during the year 2005 from Central Trade Unions regarding the need to implement labour laws in the Information Technology (IT) sector;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) if so, whether is any proposal to dilute the present labour laws in Information Technology sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total number of employees working in Information Technology sector under various categories for the last three years, category-wise, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Governments are the "appropriate Government" under the various labour laws and legally vested with the powers to deal with the enforcement of labour laws in information technology sector. Information Technology and Information Technology enabled services are covered under existing labour laws. Accordingly, State Governments have been requested to take appropriate action in getting the labour law implementation reviewed expeditiously.

(e) The desired Information is not centrally maintained.